Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal device, comprising:

a first substrate having a surface;

a second substrate having a surface that faces the surface of the first substrate;

a plurality of scanning lines;

a plurality of data lines that define pixel areas with the plurality of scanning lines;

switching elements provided at positions corresponding to intersections between the scanning lines and the data lines;

pixel electrodes, each connected to one of the switching elements, the pixel electrodes that are adjacent to each other being applied with voltages having different polarities, adjacent pixel electrodes being separate from each other by a space L of approximately 1 μm;

liquid crystal disposed between the first and second substrates; and

alignment films disposed between the liquid crystal and the surfaces of the first and second substrates, inducing a pretilt angle in the liquid crystal of 20° to 30°.

11. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal ~~device according to claim 1,~~ device, comprising:

first and second substrates, the first substrate having a surface proximate the second substrate, the second substrate being a surface proximate the first substrate;

an alignment film disposed at each of the surfaces of the first and second substrates;

liquid crystal disposed between the first and second substrates;

a plurality of scanning lines;

a plurality of data lines;

pixel areas defined by the scanning lines and the data lines;

a switching element provided in each pixel area;

a first light shielding film disposed between the first substrate and the switching element at a region corresponding to the switching element but not at a region corresponding to between adjacent pixel areas; and

a pixel electrode provided in each pixel area, a pretilt angle due to the alignment films being 20° to 30°, and, if a thickness of the liquid crystal disposed between the first and second substrates is represented as d, and a space defined between the pixel electrodes is represented as L, a ratio d/L is at least 1 and the space L ~~being~~ is approximately 1 μm, and display defects caused by disclination are prevented by the same alignment film that is formed in spaces between body portions of the pixel electrodes, pixels that are adjacent to each other being applied with voltages having different polarities.